

Message Text

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42

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 FMC-04 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-02 DLOS-07

SWF-02 TAR-02 DRC-01 /055 W
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P 111055Z JUL 74

FM USINT ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0761

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, AG

SUBJECT: PORT CONGESTION SURCHARGE

REF: STATE 145500

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. DETAILS DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN HERE AS VIRTUALLY ALL SHIPPING LINES REPRESENTED BY CNAN, ALGERIAN NATIONAL FLAG CARRIER. CNAN OFFICIAL CLAIMS NO UNUSUAL CONGESTION ALGIERS PORT, WITH TURNAROUND TIME TWO TO THREE DAYS.

2. OTHER EMBASSIES HAVE VERY LIMITED INFORMATION, IN MOST CASES REFERRING US TO THEIR SHIPPING COMPANIES OR MARITIME AUTHORITIES IN THEIR HOME COUNTRIES. BRITISH EMBASSY REPORTS 18 PERCENT SURCHARGE ON ALL FREIGHT FROM BRITISH PORTS TO ALGIERS (PRESUMABLY BASED ON INFLATION). PLUS ADDITIONAL 10 PERCENT CURRENCY FACTOR SURCHARGE, 15 PERCENT BUNKERING SURCHARGE FOR NON-CNAN VESSELS (5 PERCENT FOR CNAN), PLUS VARIABLE PORT DELAY SURCHARGE. DUTCH EMBASSY BELIEVES THERE IS A SURCHARGE FROM DUTCH PORTS BUT UNAWARE OF AMOUNT.

3. WE NOTE THAT RECENTLY THERE HAVE BEEN AVERAGE OF A DOZEN OR MORE SHIPS WAITING IN ROADSTEAD OF ALGIERS PORT, HIGHER THAN WE HAVE NOTICES IN SOME MONTHS.

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4. COMMENT: WE TAKE CNAN OFFICIAL'S NON-CONGESTION CLAIM WITH A HUGE DOSE OF SALT. HOWEVER, IT WOULD SEEM THAT HARD FACTS ARE BEST OBTAINABLE FROM SHIPPING COMPANIES AND SHIPPERS, ALTHOUGH WE REALIZE THEY ARE INTERESTED PARTIES IN TARIFF FILING. UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVE SEEN NO U.S. SHIPPING COMPANIES' REPRESENTATIVES HERE IN SOME MONTHS. IN INTERESTING SIDELIGHT, BRITISH EMBASSY STATED FLATLY THAT FOREIGN-FLAG VESSELS MUST WAIT TURN INTO PORT WHILE CNAN VESSELS ALWAYS GIVEN PRIORITY. SPANISH SAY THEY HAVE BEEN UNDER SOME PRESSURE TO SIGN MARITIME AGREEMENT WITH ALGERIANS, WHICH FORMER RESISTING ON BASIS OF OECD COMMITMENTS, SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD IMPLY PRIORITY FOR SPANISH. SIMPSON

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